

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/712,931

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

Applicant(s)

KIRKPATRICK ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/28/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11/16/2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
JOHN FOLLANSBEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-22 are allowed.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jeramie Keys on 09/28/2004.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

- I. Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A system for managing transactions between computer systems, comprising:

a receiving computer system that receives a request message from a first computer system, wherein the request message corresponds to a response having one or more transaction types and having one more attributes for each of the one or more identified transaction types;

a management file accessible by the receiving computer system and containing a plurality of transaction type-attribute strings ~~with multiple transaction type-attribute strings of the plurality~~ comprising a transaction type identified by a transaction code having one or more characters masked so as to represent multiple transaction types, the ~~multiple~~ plurality of strings further comprising an attribute and an associated action

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value representing an action to be taken by the receiving computer system for the attribute, wherein the management file contains a reduced number of transaction type attribute strings for matching a given number of transaction type attribute strings with respect to a management file ~~not~~ containing transaction type attribute strings for matching the given number of transaction type attribute strings with without the transaction code having one or more characters masked; and

a process implemented by the receiving computer system that determines what action to take in response to the received request message by comparing one of the corresponding transaction codes with the transaction type of the plurality of transaction type-attribute strings of the management file to find a transaction type-attribute string that matches both the transaction type and one of the attributes corresponding to the received request, ~~and by obtaining the action value associated with the transaction type-attribute string that has been the found.~~

II. Claim 3, line 1, replace "manager" with --management--.

III. Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method for managing transactions between computer systems, comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a management file containing a plurality of transaction type-attribute strings ~~with multiple transaction type attribute strings of the plurality~~ comprising a transaction type identified by a transaction code having one or more characters masked so as to represent multiple transaction types, the ~~multiple~~ plurality of strings further comprising an attribute and an associated action value representing an action to be taken by the receiving computer system for the attribute, wherein the management file

contains a reduced number of transaction type attribute strings for matching a given number of transaction type attribute strings with respect to a management file ~~not~~ containing transaction type attribute strings for matching the given number of transaction type attribute strings ~~with~~ without the transaction type having one or more characters masked;

(b) receiving an inbound transaction request;

(c) processing the inbound transaction request to determine a transaction type and an attribute for the transaction type that corresponds to the inbound transaction request;

d) based on the determined transaction type, determining a response transaction type-attribute string having no masked characters and having an appropriate attribute for responding to the inbound transaction request;

(e) determining if the response transaction type-attribute string having no masked characters matches one of the at least one transaction type-attribute strings in the ~~manager~~ management file; and

(f) if a match is found, responding to the input transaction request in accordance with the action value associated with the transaction type-attribute string that matched the response transaction type-attribute string.

IV. Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 8, further comprising the step determining if there is literal match prior to determining if there is a match ~~requiring~~ having a mask, where a literal match is one with no masked characters.

**V. Claim 14. (Currently Amended)** A system for managing computer transactions between a first computer system and a second computer system, comprising:

a gateway computer providing communication between the first computer system and the second computer system;

a process, which when executing on the gateway computer, takes a transaction request from the first computer system, reformats the transaction request into a request the second computer system can process, transmits the reformatted transaction request to the second computer system, receives a response transaction from the second computer system, reformats the response transaction into a format the first computer can process, at least a portion of the response transaction being based on a table containing a plurality of transaction type-attribute strings ~~with multiple transaction type-attribute strings of the plurality~~ comprising a transaction type identified by a transaction code having one or more characters masked so as to represent multiple transaction types, the ~~multiple~~ plurality of strings further comprising an attribute and an associated action value representing an action to be taken by the receiving computer system for the attribute, wherein the table contains a reduced number of transaction type attribute strings for matching a given number of transaction type attribute strings with respect to a table ~~not~~ containing transaction type attribute strings for matching the given number of transaction type attribute strings with without the transaction type having one or more characters masked.

**VI. Claim 20. (Currently Amended)** A data structure stored in a computer memory of a receiving computer, comprising: a plurality of transaction code-attribute pairs, each

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transaction code-attribute pair comprising a transaction code portion and an attribute portion and being associated with an action value, wherein at least one of the plurality of transaction code-attribute pairs contains a mask value within the transaction code so as to represent a plurality of transaction code-attribute pairs and thereby reduce the number of transaction code-attribute pairs that are stored in computer memory relative to a number of transaction code-attribute pairs without having a mask value that is necessary to represent the plurality of transaction-code attribute pairs, and wherein one transaction code-attribute pair has a most literal correspondence to a particular request sent from a first computer such that an action value for the particular request is determined by finding the transaction code-attribute pair having the most literal correspondence.

#### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments that Gebauer does not teach the claimed limitations are persuasive with respect to Transaction type-attribute strings that contain a transaction type, represented by a transaction code, and a corresponding attribute, and these strings are also associated with an action value. These components are contained in the management file as a reduced number of transaction type attribute strings for matching a given number of transaction type attribute strings with respect to a management file containing transaction type attribute strings for matching the given number of transaction type attribute strings without the transaction code having one or more characters masked; and

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a process implemented by the receiving computer system that determines what action to take in response to the received request message by comparing one of the corresponding transaction codes with the transaction type of the plurality of transaction type-attribute strings of the management file to find a transaction type-attribute string that matches both the transaction type and one of the attributes corresponding to the received request. None of the prior arts of record teach or suggest the claimed limitations.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 305-2655. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Abp

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